(c) if so, the quantum of edible oil imported and whether the import was made against the Exim Scrip;

(d) whether this was against the import policy announced in July last; and

(e) what was the quantity of imported oil supplied through Public Distribution System and price charged from the distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The gap between demand and indigenous production of edible oil for the oil year 1990-91 (Nov. to Oct.) was around 6 lakh MTs.

(b) to (d) With a view to bridge the above mentioned gap to the extent possible, a quantity of 0.9 lakh MTs. of edible oil was imported against free foreign exchange till March, 91 and no further import could be made thereafter on account of severe foreign exchange constraints. Govt. has, however, authorised import of edible oil through STC against purchase and surrender of Exim Scrips. Against this authorisation, STC contracted a quantity of 66000 MTs of Palmolein. Out of this, 54000 MTs has already arrived as on 2nd Dec., 1991 and remaining on high sea. In addition, State Govts. have also been allowed to directly import 48000 MTs against export of certain goods.

(e) The quantity of imported edible oil allocated to and lifted by the States/UTs during the last oil year and till now is as under:—

(Quantity in MTs)

	Allocation	Lifting
Oil year 90-91 (Nov. 90 to Oct. 91)	1,54,205	1, 60,009
Nov., 1991	22,175	3,117 (upto 20-11-91)

The Central issue prices of edible oils effective from 26th January, 1991 are Rs. 16,500 PMT for the oil supplied in bulk and Rs. 19,000 PMT for the oil supplied in 15 Kg. tins.

Supply of foodgrains to Fair Price Shops

1353. KUMARI ALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was acute shortage of foodgrains in the F.P.S. all over the country during August-September, 1991; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps taken to improve the situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Central Government makes allocation of foodgrains to State Government/UT Administrations for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) to consumers. Keeping in view the lean season in August—October, 1991, the Central Government allotted additional quantum of foodgrains to States/Uts for PDS during these months. No overall shortage of foodgrains in Fair Price Shops all over the country was reported during August-September, 1991.

1354. [*Transferred to the 13th December, 1991*].